Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A portable microscope comprising: a stand that is constructed from a first housing shell and a second housing shell; a height-adjustable microscope stage which is carried by the stand; a base part that closes the first and the second housing shell at the bottom, wherein the microscope stage [[has]] forms a unit from a sample support part, a cylindrical guide part, and a base; [[and]] the base of the microscope stage carries an illumination module[[.]]; and wherein the sample support part, the cylindrical guide part, and base are adhesively bonded together into the unit.

Claim 2 (original): The portable microscope as defined in Claim 1, wherein an energy source is provided in the base part of the stand, the energy source being a battery or rechargeable battery.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The portable microscope as defined in Claim 1, wherein a connection socket for an external power supply or for recharging [[the]] a rechargeable battery is provided on the stand of the microscope.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The portable microscope as defined in Claim 2, wherein an on/off switch is associated with the microscope stage in such a way that when the microscope stage is lowered, delivery of power from the energy source to the illumination module is interrupted; and when the microscope stage is raised, delivery of power from the energy source to the illumination module is effected.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The portable microscope as defined in Claim 1, wherein the microscope stage [[can]] is operatively arranged to be partially inserted into the stand as defined by the first and the second housing shell ~~(16 and 18)~~, and the cylindrical guide part of the microscope stage ~~sliding~~ slides inside the stand.

Claim 6 (original): The portable microscope as defined in Claim 5, wherein an elastic element, which exerts a return force on the microscope stage in order to pull the microscope stage into the stand, is joined to the base of the microscope stage and to the stand.

Claim 7 (original): The portable microscope as defined in Claim 1, wherein the illumination module encompasses a light-emitting diode that emits white light.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The portable microscope as defined in Claim 7, wherein the base of the microscope stage, the light-emitting diode, and an electronic circuit together constitute the illumination module and are a preassembled component~~; and the base, the guide part, and the sample support part are adhesively bonded to one another~~.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A microscope stage for a portable microscope, comprising: a sample support part, a cylindrical guide part and a base and an illumination module is carried by the base and wherein the sample support part, the cylindrical guide part, and base are adhesively bonded together into a unit.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The microscope stage as defined in Claim 9, wherein the illumination module includes a light-emitting diode that emits white light and is mounted, together with an electronic circuit, proximate the base.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The microscope stage as defined in Claim 9, wherein an on/off switch is associated with the microscope stage in such a way that when the microscope stage is lowered, delivery of power from an energy source to the illumination module is interrupted; and when the microscope stage is raised, delivery of power from the energy source to the illumination module is effected.

Claim 12 (original): The microscope stage as defined in Claim 11, wherein the energy source is a battery or rechargeable battery.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The microscope stage as defined in Claim 9, wherein the sample support part includes a transparent element; and a diffusion disk is provided between the illumination module and the transparent element.

Claim 14 (original): The microscope stage as defined in Claim 9, wherein at least one Z-drive knob is provided, an eccentric cam is mechanically connected to said Z-drive knob, wherein the eccentric cam coacts with the base of the microscope stage so that the microscope stage is vertically displaceable.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The microscope stage as defined in Claim 14, wherein an elastic element, that exerts a return force on the microscope stage in order to pull the microscope stage into the stand, is joined to the base of the microscope stage and to the stand of the microscope.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The microscope stage as defined in Claim 9, wherein the illumination module is a preassembled component and the base, the cylindrical guide part, and the sample support part are adhesively bonded to one another; and the illumination module is retained in the guide part with a plastic ring and by means of the base adhesively bonded to the cylindrical guide part.